

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

INTERIM
Annual Reports
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1943.

BILSTON & SEDGLEY:
JOHN PRICE & SONS, PRINTERS.

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Chairman of Health Committee.
Councillor C. A. PRATT, J.P., C.C.

Medical Officer of Health.

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.
(serving with His Majesty's Forces).
C. H. G. BEKENN, M.B., Ch.B. (temporary appointment,
3/10/39).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.
DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.,
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Medical Officer's Clerk and Billeting Officer.
W. A. PEARSON.

Pupils to Sanitary Inspector.
R. BOWYER.
I. HOUGH.

Public Health Clerk.
Miss B. MULLETT.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1943.

Area, 3,854 acres.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 5,736.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £324.

Rateable Value, £83,790.

General Rate, 16/- in the £.

Birth Rate, 17.37.

Death Rate, 11.21.

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births: 60.4.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea, 2; Rate per 1,000 Births, 5.5.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 14; From other Tuberculous Diseases, 0.

Tuberculosis Death Rate: Pulmonary, 0.67; Non-Pulmonary, 0.00.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, indicated in Circular 10/44, this Annual Report for the year 1943 is abridged and interim in character and, as a result, much information and many statistics are omitted.

All excluded records are carefully preserved for the purpose of preparing any reports called for after the termination of the war, giving such information as is now omitted.

After four years of war conditions, it is a matter for congratulation that the general health of our population continues to be good, despite the difficulties which exist.

The Birth Rate for the year again shews an increase on the previous year, being 17.37, as against 15.7. It is also higher than the rate for England and Wales, which is 16.5. The Death Rate of 11.21 is slightly higher than last year, when it was 11.0, but lower than the rate for the country, which is 12.1.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 60.4 is higher than the rate for the country as a whole, which is 49.0. Of the 22 deaths under one year eight died from pneumonia, and six from premature birth.

The report received from Dr. Carruthers, County Medical Officer of Health, on the work of the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres, bears evidence that the good standard of work obtained before the war period has been fully maintained.

A pleasing feature is the very large number of children immunised against diphtheria by Dr. Smith during this year. A total number of 1,190 were treated by him, and these figures bring the percentage of children immunised to a high standard. I am also indebted to him for his assistance in detecting and reporting scabies cases for treatment.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration, to the private practitioners for their continued co-operation, to the members of the staff for loyal services freely rendered, and to my brother officers for unfailing assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. G. BEKENN,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1944.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.
Total	199	165
Legitimate	193	162
Illegitimate	6	3

Birth Rate—17.37.

STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.
Total	7	3
Legitimate	7	2
Illegitimate	—	1

Rate per 1,000 Total Births—26.74.

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	235	123	112	Rate—11.21.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:—
 From Sepsis, 0. Other maternal causes, 1.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 60.4.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 59.1.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 111.1.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 40.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 2.

TABLE I.

BIRTH RATES.

Year.	SEDGLEY.		England and Wales, Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1936	288	14.4	14.8
1937	292	14.4	14.9
1938	321	15.8	15.1
1939	304	14.69	15.0
1940	299	14.21	14.6
1941	294	13.77	14.2
1942	331	15.7	15.8
1943	364	17.37	16.5

TABLE II.

DEATH RATES.

Year.	SEDGLEY.		England and Wales, Death Rate
	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	
1936	220	11.0	12.1
1937	222	11.0	12.4
1938	221	10.9	11.6
1939	251	12.07	12.1
1940	236	11.22	14.3
1941	242	11.33	12.9
1942	232	11.0	11.6
1943	235	11.21	12.1

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Causes of Death:—

					M.	F.
	All Causes	....	....	....	123	112
1	Typhoid Fever, etc.	....	....	....	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	....	....	....	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	—	—
5	Diphtheria	....	....	....	1	3
6	Respiratory Tuberculosis	....	....	....	8	6
7	Other Tuberculosis	....	....	....	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	....	—	—
9	Influenza	....	....	....	6	5
10	Measles	....	....	....	—	—
11	Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	....	....	....	—	—
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	....	....	....	—	1
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males)					
	Uterus (F.)	....	....	....	—	3
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	5	5
15	Cancer of Breast	....	....	....	—	5
16	Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	16	6
17	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	—
18	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	....	8	14
19	Heart Disease	....	....	....	25	17
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	....	....	....	4	4
21	Bronchitis	....	....	....	11	8
22	Pneumonia	....	....	....	5	7
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....	....	....	4	—
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	....	1	1
26	Appendicitis	....	....	....	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	1	—
28	Nephritis	....	....	....	1	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....	—	—
30	Other Maternal causes	....	....	....	—	1
31	Premature Birth	....	....	....	5	1
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.				2	2
33	Suicide	....	....	....	2	2
34	Road Traffic Accidents	....	....	....	2	—
35	Other violent causes	....	....	....	3	4
36	All other causes	....	....	....	13	17

TABLE III.—(Continued).

					M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year:	Total	....	....	....	14	8
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	13	8
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	1	—
Live Births:	Total	....	....	....	199	165
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	193	162
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	6	3
Stillbirths:	Total	....	....	....	7	3
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	7	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	1

The highest number of deaths were attributable to the following causes:—

					1943	1942
Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	42	39
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	....	....	22	32
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	12	23
Cancer	....	....	....	....	40	28
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	19	16
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	14	14
Influenza	....	....	....	....	11	2

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1943.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age:—

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.					Total under one month				Total Deaths under one Year
		1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	1—3 Months.		3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	
All causes	9	1	2	....	12	2	4	4	....	22
Smallpox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculosis Meningitis
Tuberculosis Peritonitis
Other Tuberculous Disease
Meningitis (not tubercular)
Convulsions
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	....	....	2	....	4	2	....	8
Diarrhoea
Enteritis	1	....	1	....	1	....	2
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation	1	....	....	1
Injury at Birth	1	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	2
Atelectasis	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
Congenital Malformation	1	....	....	1	....	1	....	2
Premature Birth	6	....	....	....	6	....	....	....	6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus
Influenza
Icterus Neonatorum
Other causes
Totals	9	1	2	....	12	2	4	4	....	22

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Sources of supply are as detailed in the report for the year 1939. The results of examination of samples supplied to me by Mr. Fred J. Dixon, M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst. Mech. E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, show that the supply maintains a satisfactory standard. It is constant throughout the district and is well distributed, not more than 20 houses being supplied by means of standpipes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

This report is submitted by Mr. A. E. Dicks, Assoc. Mem. Inst.C.E., Surveyor.

During the year no new sewers were actually laid by the Council, but considerable trouble was experienced with certain sewers in Lower Gornal owing to colliery subsidence.

Sewage Disposal Works.

Analyses of effluents from all Works are still taken regularly but, although they are reasonably good, these still show a certain deterioration. This is partly due to the age of the works and the overloading of the plants due to the extension of Housing Schemes.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year. It has not been possible to re-house any of the tenants who continue to occupy houses already under demolition orders. Vacancies in Council houses are so rare that opportunity to deal with such cases as these and over-crowding is practically nil.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year no houses were disinfested, the conditions of the district being very satisfactory in this respect.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Particulars of inspections and details of work done will be found in your Inspector's Report.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—Inspections have been carried out in the slaughter-houses, together with visits to retail shops.
For further information see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) **Adulteration, etc.**—The County Authority is responsible for all inspections and actions taken.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.**—The County is the responsible Authority.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Jenkins, Inspector of South Staffordshire, for the following report.

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN SEDGLEY U.D. DURING 1943.

Article.	Samples taken.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	30	28	2
General Foods	15	11	4
Total	45	39	6

Only two samples of milk were reported against, these were slightly deficient in fat, and the sellers were warned.

One sample of baking powder was deficient in available carbon dioxide, it was found to be old stock, and the rest was withdrawn from sale. Two samples of a beverage were reported against as it was felt that the label was misleading to the public. The matter was taken up with the manufacturer, who agreed to alter existing and new labels. An informal sample of ground gelatine was reported unsuitable for food owing to the presence of metallic contamination higher than the present standard, but it was not found possible to repeat the sample from the original supply.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

UNDESIGNATED SAMPLES.

Number submitted	Cleanliness.	T.B.		
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Negative	Positive
25*1	15	10	24	—

* No Biological Test.

DESIGNATED MILKS.

	No. of samples submitted.	Cleanliness.	T.B.		
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Neg.	Pos.
Tuberculin Tested	4	....	4	—	....

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a considerable increase in the number of notified cases of infectious disease as compared with 1942, the figures being 306, as against 159. This is accounted for by the reason that, whereas in 1942 there were only 11 notified cases of Measles, the number for this year was 195.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases for the year was 30, as against 53 for the previous year. Of this number, six were admitted to hospital.

There was again an increase in the number of Diphtheria cases, there being 42, as against 35 in 1942. Of this number, 24 were over school age, the majority being between 20 and 30 years of age. Twenty-two cases were treated in hospital, and there were four deaths.

Good use is made of diphtheria anti-toxin by the local practitioners, supplies being always available to them.

As regards non-notifiable diseases, Mumps were prevalent during the second quarter of the year, 148 cases being reported from the Schools. Influenza was troublesome in the last quarter, 70 cases being reported. Thirty cases of Scabies were also reported during the year.

There was one reported case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

Tuberculosis.

		Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
New Cases:	Males	14	—
	Females	9	4
Deaths:	Males	8	—
	Females	6	—

During the year 140 throat swab tests were carried out at the County Laboratory, 20 being positive, and 120 negative.

Forty-one sputum tests were also made and of these nine were found to be positive, and 32 negative.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

I am indebted to Dr. C. Simpson Smith, County Assistant School Medical Officer, for his report that during the year he has given this treatment to 536 children under five years, and 654 children between the ages of five and 15 years.

The total number of immunisations during the year was 546 under five years, and 664 between the ages of five and 15 years.

The estimated percentage of child population in the district who have now received a complete course of immunisation is, for children under five years, 68.7, and for children between five and 15 years, 88.6.

These figures are excellent, and evidence of the great efforts made by Dr. Smith and the Welfare Nurses to secure immunity of the children against this dangerous disease.

My thanks are also due to the Head Teachers of the various schools for their co-operation in this work.

SCABIES.

In February last a Cleansing Station was opened at the Burton House First Aid Post to provide for treatment of Scabies.

By the end of the year 340 treatments had been given. It is becoming increasingly evident that it is often useless treating children found to be suffering from this disease, and neglecting to compel the parents to prove that they are not also affected and in need of treatment.

TABLE VII.
AGE-GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1943.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

HOUSING.

During the year 1943, the housing position steadily deteriorated. The number of applicants for houses continued to rise, with no immediate hopes of anything being done to alleviate the conditions under which they were living.

Eight Council houses became void during the year, but the eight families rehoused were a very small proportion of those who urgently require houses.

With regard to overcrowding, no accurate statement is possible until a complete survey of the district has been made. I have every reason to believe, however, that the figure is very high.

Repairs to existing houses have been attended to throughout the year, generally matters of an urgent character. Towards the end of the year, however, on the receipt of a Ministry circular on housing, a systematic inspection of the district was begun. A number of notices under the Housing Act were served, to prevent, if possible, further deterioration in the older class of property in the district. By the end of the year, however, little had been done by the owners to comply with these notices. I expect 1944 to show some considerable improvement in this respect.

FOOD INSPECTION.

There is only one slaughterhouse at present in use in the district—a small bacon factory where 850 pigs were inspected during the year.

The number of cottagers' pigs inspected during the year was 218.

From the total of 1,068 pigs, 1ton 1qr. 5lbs. of meat was condemned, details given below.

Affected With Tuberculosis.

Pigs' heads	....	....	....	....	111
„ mesenteries	....	....	....	....	25
„ plucks	....	....	....	....	13
„ spleen	....	....	....	....	1
„ intestines	....	....	....	....	1
„ lungs and heart	....	....	....	....	1
„ carcase	....	....	....	....	1

Affected With Other Diseases.

Natural death	.....	1 carcase
Cirrhosis	.....	2 livers
Abscesses	.....	1 pluck
Congestion	.....	1 stomach
	.....	1 pluck
	.....	1 intestines

Portions of organs affected with various minor diseases are not included in the above figures.

The percentage of pigs found affected with tuberculosis was 10 per cent.

In addition to the above, foodstuffs of all kinds were examined in shops, and the quantities detailed below were certified unfit for human consumption.

Bread	....	....	....	....	375 lbs.
Flour	....	....	....	....	140 lbs.
Cheese	....	....	....	....	44½ lbs.
Margarine	....	....	....	....	13½ lbs.
Lard	....	....	....	....	2 lbs.
Bacon	....	....	....	....	35¾ lbs.
Ham	....	....	....	....	16½ lbs.
Eggs	....	....	....	....	24
Meat	....	....	....	....	83 tins
Fish	....	....	....	....	78 tins
Milk	....	....	....	....	243 tins
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	59 tins
Soup	....	....	....	....	9 tins
Fruit	....	....	....	....	10 tins
Jam	....	....	....	....	4 tins

INSPECTIONS.

During the year, inspections to premises of various kinds numbered 2,994. In addition, 580 re-inspections were made.

The types of property visited are listed in the table below.

Ashbins	....	....	....	....	....	36
Ashpits	....	....	....	....	....	3
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	20
Billeting	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cesspools	....	....	....	....	....	12
Cottagers' Pigs	....	....	....	....	....	238
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	75
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	139
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	26
Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	32
Factories—Power	....	....	....	....	....	3
Factories—No Power	....	....	....	....	....	1
General Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	32
Houses under P.H.A.	....	....	....	....	....	154
Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	118
Houses Fumigated	....	....	....	....	....	34

INSPECTIONS—(continued).

Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	118
Interviews	....	....	....	62
Letting of Council Houses	....	....	....	217
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	12
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	186
Meat Shops	....	....	....	15
Overcrowding	....	....	....	8
Privies	....	....	....	12
Public Cleansing	....	....	....	894
Piggeries	....	....	....	12
Re-inspections	....	....	....	580
Rats and Mice Destruction	....	....	....	51
Railings	....	....	....	5
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	65
Shops Act	....	....	....	29
Salvage	....	....	....	277
Tents, Vans, Sheds	....	....	....	10
War Emergencies—A.R.P.	....	....	....	95

NOTICES.

The number of informal notices served during the year was 342. Of this number, and those outstanding from the previous year, 296 were complied with at the end of the year.

Fourteen statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936. All were complied with during the year.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the district as a result of the above notices.

Ashbins provided	....	....	....	211
Accumulations removed	....	....	....	1
Burst Pipes repaired	....	....	....	17
Bakehouses limewashed	....	....	....	1
Chimney Stack repaired	....	....	....	1
Ceilings repaired or renewed	....	....	....	1
Coal Store repaired	....	....	....	1
Cowshed repaired	....	....	....	1
Drainage altered	....	....	....	9
Drainage cleared	....	....	....	5
Dirty premises cleaned	....	....	....	7
Doors repaired	....	....	....	2
Dampness remedied	....	....	....	1
Dry Rot remedied	....	....	....	1
Floors repaired	....	....	....	2

NOTICES—(continued).

Firegrates repaired .....	....	....	....	5
Houses cleansed ....	....	....	....	1
House roofs repaired .....	....	....	....	47
Miscellaneous ....	....	....	....	5
Outbuildings limewashed .....	....	....	....	1
Plasterwork repaired .....	....	....	....	7
Privies converted to W.C.s .....	....	....	....	1
Privies converted to chemical closets .....	....	....	....	1
Rooms cleansed ....	....	....	....	1
Sink waste pipes repaired .....	....	....	....	9
Spouting repaired ....	....	....	....	5
Sinks provided ....	....	....	....	4
Walls pointed ....	....	....	....	4
Washing boilers repaired .....	....	....	....	10
Water supply provided .....	....	....	....	6
W.C.s cleansed ....	....	....	....	3
W.C.s repaired ....	....	....	....	16
W.C. new pans provided .....	....	....	....	3
W.C. cisterns repaired .....	....	....	....	13
Windows repaired .....	....	....	....	7
Yards cleansed ....	....	....	....	3
Yard paving relaid .....	....	....	....	1

SALVAGE.

During the year, the increase in materials salvaged, which was observed during the years 1940, 1941 and 1942, was no longer continued. Most items, in fact, showed a decrease. This was only to be expected.

Paper became increasingly scarce during the year, and this was reflected in the lower tonnage which was salvaged. I have again to tender my best thanks to the ladies of the W.V.S. to whom the collection of most of the paper was due. They have carried on this work throughout the year in all weathers, and the help thus given has been invaluable to the department.

Kitchen waste is collected from about 200 communal bins distributed throughout the district. I believe that the drop in the amount of kitchen waste salvaged was due to the increase in the number of residents who took up pig and poultry keeping during the year.

The drop in the tonnage of tins collected was due to the collapse of the market for this material. In fact, towards the end of the year we ceased salvaging tins altogether.

During the month of October a book drive was held. We fixed a target of 40,000 books, and were successful in reaching a figure of 52,000. Most of the credit for this result was due to the school children of the district, who came into the campaign with all the enthusiasm and vigour we had hoped for.

I append a table showing the tonnage of materials salvaged during the past four years.

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Kitchen Waste	8	116	222	194
Paper	90	106	127	92
Tins	39	65	75	41
Cullet	12	29	26	33
Metal	17	10	14	13
Jars	10	10	14	16
Bottles		8	10	7
Rags	2	5	6	6
Bones	5	5	4	4
Rubber	—	—	3	2
	—	—	—	—
	183	354	501	408
	—	—	—	—

The prices received for the above-mentioned materials were:—

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
	£	£	£	£
Paper	352	432	725	589
Kitchen Waste	35	158	371	311
Rags	9	20	69	97
Tins	35	64	92	41
Metal	34	30	43	39
Bottles	32	32	43	38
Jars	—	28	52	70
Cullet	11	25	23	33
Bones	15	18	12	18
Rubber	—	—	4	6
	—	—	—	—
	£527	£807	£1434	£1242
	—	—	—	—

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

